/274 cont./

411 [197] of a native word for the instrument at least leads to the conclusion that the implement, too, is not native.

Note. By way of supplement, I must here discuss two implements about which the Indians gave me information that could not be checked at all. It was my principle to inquire [125] systematically about everything that might possibly occur; and where the description was not adequate, I made models. Thus, I demonstrated a stone sling to the Indians. They then told me, in agreement in various villages, that this instrument (nĕrŭdĭ) was familiar to them, but that they did not use it because of a scarcity of stones. Allegedly they had taken it over from the [197] Brazilians. It /275/ was impossible for me to induce the Indians to make such an instrument.

Even more dubious are the statements about the boomerang. My informant Kurišĭ, whom, on the basis of my other experiences, I must regard as trustworthy, told me: his mother told him in his childhood that the Karajá of the north horde had a stick (ĭādĕzĕ) that came back when it was thrown. He had not seen such an implement; it must therefore have fallen into disuse long ago. I was unable to gain confirmation of these two statements; I am therefore repeating them here with all reservations.

411 714 The Indians do not have defensive weapons. Against blows they protect themselves merely with the hand and the arm. They ward off flying arrows with the club; they do not know how to divert them with the spear, with bow or arrow. They have no real protection against the recoil of the bowstring; the recoil is even said to be very painful. It is somewhat mitigated by the arm cuff (desí); a person who does not wear cuffs, like the married men, wraps bast around his lower arm; this apparently occurs only in war, however, for I did not notice anything of the kind for fishing.

714 715 Amulets are lacking; they use only a charm against arrow shooting; a disk ten centimeters in diameter and made out of scraped pieces of the bowstring is glued on both sides of the chest with resin. They believe that no arrow can then hit the chest.